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Pre final  
4/A  
C.B. Bates  
10/7/02

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Date: 9/19/02

Heather Holmes  
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re patent application of:

Applicants: Eric J. Horvitz, *et al.*

Serial No: 09/832,274

Filing Date: April 10, 2001

Examiner: Unknown

Art Unit: 2183

**RECEIVED**

SEP 30 2002

Technology Center 2100

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING UTILITY-BASED DECISION  
MAKING ABOUT CLARIFICATION DIALOG GIVEN COMMUNICATIVE  
UNCERTAINTY

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

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Sir:

Prior to performing substantive examination of this application, entry of this preliminary amendment is respectfully requested.